To Cure or not to Cure and AIDS?

AIDS or acquired immune deficiency syndrome is one of the world’s most devastating diseases. It has been ranked as #4 deadliest disease by the science channel. According to Amfar 1.7 million people died in 2011 due to this deadly threat. It spreads like wild fire and burns through its victims as it rages through not just poverty stricken countries but our own country as well. What is this killer? How is it passed and should be find a cure or not?

In order to understand the why or why not of curing AIDS we must understand the "what" and "how" behind the deadly killer.

AIDS a disease that is contracted through contact to outsiders bodily fluids. The body, when affected by aids, has an impunity break down. The cells which were hanging around to fight infections and other diseases are attacked and killed by the HIV virus which is the beginning of AIDS. These cells that would kill a common cold even up to helping a person fight cancer are all gone. There are no knights to protect the castle of human health. It is not the AIDS that kills you but it is the outside viruses and diseases that come into your defenseless body that destroy you. AIDS is a slow killer because it can be fairly dormant until you receive an additional outside infection, against which your body is now defenseless. This is why all AIDS victims die. There life becomes a ticking time bomb and the trigger can be as simple as the common flu.

We understand that this disease is ravaging many parts of the world. AIDS is most prevent in places such as Africa and India. These countries have poor education, health care, and a different set of moral values and culture than the average American or European country. How is AIDS spread? Is AIDS a rampant disease that snatches up helpless victims like cancer and Malaria?

AIDS as we know is a disease that is spread in a specific few ways. The virus HIV, which is the base of AIDS is spread only through direct internal fluid to internal fluid contact. AIDS spreads its nasty effects through blood, semen, breast milk, and vaginal fluids. (aids.gov) You may think that it seems like you can have very specific control over your personal contact with such fluids therefore avoiding AIDS and you would be right in such assumptions. Though you may not want to hear this AIDS is most commonly transmitted through a couple specific ways. The number one way is through unprotected and protected sexual contact. AIDS is prominent in drug users. Often illegal injection drug users share needles to save money and for convenience. Drug dealers and users do anything to get their fix including selling and using pre-owned syringes and other equipment. The innocent victims of HIV are the un-born children of infected mothers. HIV is often passed from mother to child in pregnancy. In very rare cases health professionals contract HIV from accidental needle sticks and other exposure. They have the benefit of having fast acting drugs to kill the virus before it takes hold of the individual. (US Department of Health and Human Services, hhs.gov)

Curing this disease has been a lifelong quest for thousands of scientists across the globe. There are treatments to help preserve the life of those infected, but a cure is yet to surface. No person can live a normal life with AIDS. According to every day health the average life span after contracting HIV is only 22.5 years and 40 years with treatment. This type of treatment is rare at best outside of the US. The question now is should we put so much time and effort into curing this disease? The answer sounds obvious but you may be surprised.

For obvious reasons thousands are working in favor of curing AIDS. Millions of lives can be saved if there were a treatment. The 34 million people in the world would have the possibility of being rescued from HIV and AIDS. The average person with HIV in the US spends over 600,000 dollars in treatment to sustain life for a time. This cost could potentially go down when a more standard cure is established. Saving lives and potentially saving money would result in the curing of AIDS. It is simple the benefits are there, but what are the hidden risks of saving the day for AIDS patients around the world?

There are other ways to stop the deaths besides trying to find a cure. Whatever happened to good old fashion education and prevention? What would happen to the world’s population if AIDS were to vanish off the face of the earth because of a miracle cure? How might this effect crime rates? How could this effect the amount of resources on the planet if people could have as much sex as they want with who they want and not worry about the consequences? How much simpler would it be for intravenous drug users to dope up on American streets? These are the questions that raise concern when one begins to talk about curing AIDS.